



EMC News

May 1, 2002

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JUST A REMINDER . . .

If you are traveling on EMC related business and want to be reimbursed for expenses, you must receive approval for the expenditure from the EMC Executive Committee and submit your request in writing to the Planning Department for approval prior to the event.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

EarthDay 2002 was held at Dewitt Park on Sunday, April 21. The EMC table featured our UNA display and county maps available from the Planning Department. There were about 12 other exhibits, and 4 hybrid vehicles on display. The attendance was very poor, hopefully due to the chilly weather. Two of the last three EarthDays have suffered because of awful weather. Maybe an inside venue would be more appropriate for Ithaca in April. Is it possible that the environmental quality of the planet has improved dramatically in the twenty-two years since the first EarthDay, and people no longer feel the need to participate?

Submitted by Stephen C. Nicholson

ENERGY COMMITTEE

The EMC Energy Committee met for the second time on Earth Day, April 22. Arel Lemaro of the Public Works Department was able to attend and contributed much to the discussion. The committee examined the next steps in the ICLEI process. We need to set goals for emissions reductions, and the group felt we should start with the provisions of the Kyoto protocol. Since the county is facing a probable budget crisis, it should be a good time to advocate for energy reductions.

Other issues to focus on in the near future include an evaluation of the first year of the library solar panels, and an analysis of the effects of New York's new cap-and-trade emissions reduction program on AES Cayuga. AES Cayuga claims that the new laws will benefit downstate generators at the expense of upstate producers. We will look into this. The committee's next meeting will be on May 6.

Submitted by Kenny Christianson

LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Currently, each year the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) gathers information from less than 5% of the state's significant lakes. Citizens help DEC extend its reach through the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (commonly referred to as "C Slap"). CSLAP volunteers trained by the DEC collect water chemistry samples, watershed data and historical information that is used to build long-term databases, to educate lake users and concerned citizens, and to develop management strategies.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network is making the five-year minimum commitment to CSLAP. The Network is seeking volunteers with access to a boat that is "sea worthy" in most weather, who can attend a training May 3-5, and who can begin monitoring this summer. The training covers lake ecology and detailed instructions on monitoring. Monitoring occurs every other week, May-September.

Volunteers process the water sample, complete paperwork, and prepare the samples for shipment to the lab. The water sample is analyzed at the lab for chemistry parameters of total phosphorus, nitrate nitrogen, true color, pH, specific conductance, and chlorophyll a. DEC shares the sampling results and its analysis of the data in an annual report.

Citizens interested in learning more about CSLAP can contact Sharon Anderson, Watershed Steward at 607-532-4104 or steward@fltg.net.

adapted from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Newsletter. Submitted by Karen Edelstein

CELEBRATE NATIONAL COMPOST WEEK

Attend *Compost Fair 2002* at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., on Saturday, May 4th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more info. contact Adam Michaelides at 272-2292 or see their website at www.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/compost

See you at the next meeting **Wednesday, May 8th**